



May 2013



### What Can I Do?



Help prevent the spread of invasive species by: Cleaning boats, boots, and other gear when moving from one body of water to another; not releasing live fishing bait into local waters; and not brushing weed seeds off your clothing before getting into a vehicle.

[More tips...](#)

### Bay Fact

From the desk of...

**Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland**



Governor O'Malley Plants One Millionth Tree With Inmates.

Earlier this month, Maryland became the first state in the nation to establish a no-net-loss policy for forests statewide. Joined by the presiding officers and Lt. Governor Brown, we signed the landmark Forest Preservation Act of 2013 ([House Bill 706](#)) to ensure that our state maintains a 40 percent tree canopy.

Our forests and urban tree canopy improve air and water quality, moderate climate, enhance Maryland's natural spaces, increase property values and provide recreational opportunities. Trees also provide flood control, wood products, renewable energy and habitat for wildlife.

Over the past four years, our fellow [citizens have planted more than 100,000 trees](#) through the Marylanders Plant Trees program, and Maryland [inmates have planted more than one million trees](#) on public lands through the Forest Brigade. All Maryland State forests have also received [dual certification](#), recognizing the State's commitment to sustainable forestry practices and the green jobs the forest industry supports.

Healthy forests support our economy, our communities, our health and our natural world. This legislation will help ensure we are using the most efficient and



Invasive species of all types - both plant and animal - are finding their way to the Bay and pushing out native species. The Chesapeake Bay Program is highlighting 10 of the worst, including blue catfish, mute swans, zebra mussels, nutria, phragmites, and the Chinese mitten crab. [Learn more...](#)

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[Economic benefits greater than costs of new stormwater controls](#)

[Development likely culprit in degradation of fish habitat](#)

[Scientists create rockfish nesting areas](#)

[Anne Arundel County Council overrides](#)

sustainable practices, to not only maintain our forests, but strengthen and expand them. It is vital we take the steps today that will ensure a smarter, greener, more sustainable Maryland for the generations of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

### **Eyes on the Bay Water Quality Website**

Underwater grasses declined for the third year in a row in 2012, decreasing another 24% in Maryland and 21% Bay-wide since 2011. Lingering impacts from Tropical Storm Lee in the Upper Bay and declining water clarity — coupled with heat stress in the Lower Bay — have prevented recovery of this resource. [More details](#) and an [interactive map of Bay grasses](#) are available online. Of course, the latest information is always available at [eyesonthebay.net](#).

### **BayStat Update**

At its April meeting, the BayStat team reviewed recent Bay monitoring results, and worked on redesigning the annual Chesapeake Bay Report Card to make it more informative and user-friendly.

### **Your Government at Work Stream Restoration Challenge Kicks Off with Spring Plantings**

More than 2,000 students from across Maryland planted trees this spring to improve water quality through Governor O'Malley's Stream Restoration Challenge. It's not too late to apply for grants to enable student and group projects to improve Chesapeake Bay water quality through service learning and environmental education activities. The application deadline is May 30. [More details...](#)



### **Boat Safe this Summer**

National Safe Boating Week, May 18-24, brought attention to boating best practices, such as the wearing of life jackets. Maryland law requires anyone under the age of 13, in a boat less than 21 feet long, to wear a life jacket while the boat is underway. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to remain safe while on the water. [More safety tips...](#)



### **2013 Blue Crab Winter Dredge**





[stormwater veto](#)

[Rockfish Season Opens on the Chesapeake](#)

[MDA Encourages Homeowners to Protect the Bay](#)

[New DNR program extends to Southern Maryland](#)

[Farm-raised Chesapeake oysters making a splash at area's top restaurants](#)

[Eagle Cam Live-Streams Wild Bald Eagle Chicks in Washington](#)

[Nearly 300 participate in 13th annual River Sweep](#)

[Black Captains of the Chesapeake](#)

[Terrapin teaches Sandy Spring fifth-graders about the cycle of life in the Bay](#)

## Quick Links

[More About BayStat](#)

[How to Use BayStat](#)

[Eyesonthebay.net](#)

[Eyes on the Bay Newsletter Archives](#)

## Survey Shows Mixed Results

The number of spawning-age females increased substantially this year — by 52 percent — indicating that the current management framework to protect adult female crabs is working. However, poor reproduction in 2013 and what appears to be high mortality within the record 2012 year-class resulted in an overall decline in the Bay-wide population. [More details...](#)



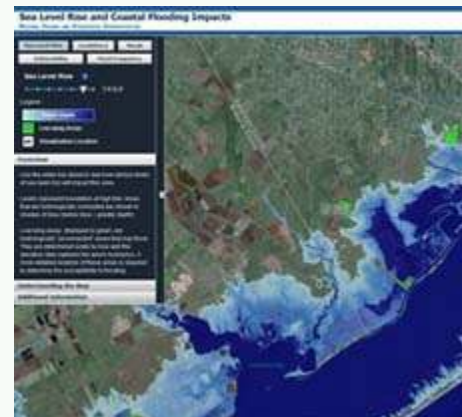
## Report Stranded Turtles and Marine Mammals

Help is available for stranded sea turtles and marine mammals, but only if their presence is known! If you see a dead, visibly injured, entangled or stranded sea animal call 1-800-628-9944 immediately, any time of day or night. [More info...](#)



## NOAA Adds Maryland to Sea Level Rise Viewer

Maryland data has been added to the interactive Sea Level Rise Viewer provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). A slider bar changes the view to show how various levels of sea rise will impact coastal communities. The viewer displays potential future sea levels; provides simulations of sea level rise at local landmarks; models potential marsh migration due to its rise; and examines how tidal flooding will become more frequent. [Check it out...](#)



## Marine Gathering Permits Now Required

Large marine gatherings require a permit under a new law passed in 2012. The requirement applies to gatherings that will consist of 100 or more vessels and last longer than three hours. [Details...](#)



## Commercial Striped Bass Fishery



### Rules Are Changing

The commercial Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass fishery is undergoing significant changes to meet fishing industry goals, create a more sustainable system, increase accountability and make it easier for police to enforce the law. The new system will also comply with new Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requirements. The changes are the result of extensive meetings with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission's Striped Bass Industry Workgroup over the past 18 months. [Learn more...](#)



### Contact Info

**Important:** Please add [baystat@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:baystat@dnr.state.md.us) to your address book to make sure we don't get caught in your spam filter.

For comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter, please send an email to [baystat@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:baystat@dnr.state.md.us)